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people, French and Catholic almost to a man. If Great Britain and France were at war, they would find themselves in a terrible dilemma ; yet their leaders are even passionately devoted to Great Britain, which has been almost too generous in leaving them their former system unimpaired.

The pagination of M. Roy's volumes is remarkable. He makes some trifling errors such as "Sir Logan" for Sir William Logan (I. xlvii), and his sense of proportion is sometimes defective ; few have heard of the "celebrated" novelist Frances Brooke (I. 25). The book is however a sound and scholarly piece of historical work, far superior to the average local history published in English. The care with which records are preserved in French Canada is probably unequalled elsewhere in the world. This fosters a taste for genealogy and there is scarcely a family that cannot trace its ancestry back for many generations. One result is a civic patriotism that has produced an admirable series of local histories.

GEORGE M. WRONG.

Mexico and the United States ; a Study of Subjects affecting their Political, Commercial and Social Relations, made with a view to their Promotion. By MATIAS ROMERO. Vol. I. (New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1898. Pp. xxxiv, 759.)

D. MATIAS ROMERO was appointed Secretary to the Mexican Legation at Washington in 1859, and for nearly twenty-five of the years between that date and his death in December last, he resided in the United States as the diplomatic representative of Mexico. Throughout this period he devoted himself with earnest intelligence and with unremitting diligence to the task of developing by every legitimate means more intimate relations between the neighboring republics. Possessed of solid qualities rather than brilliant talents, his work attracted comparatively little attention even from those whom it affected most directly, but his long term of almost uniformly pleasant and successful service gave him a position of distinct influence in official circles at Washington and with the representatives of commercial interests in the large cities. He was frequently called upon by influential organizations, by learned societies and by magazine editors to explain the problems which complicate relations with our South American neighbors and to throw light upon the puzzling questions whose solution demands an understanding of the social and political characteristics of the Mexican people. His responses to these various demands have contained a very large amount of information upon many sides of Mexican life and history. Written by one of the best informed Mexicans of his generation for the people of the United States, whose wants and ideas he had come to understand very thoroughly, these papers have for some time been regarded by those best acquainted with Mexico as among the most reliable of the sources of information available to English readers.

Almost the last important service rendered by Señor Romero to the two republics which he served so faithfully was the revision of the more important of these occasional essays and addresses for publication in per-

manent form. The statistical and geographical notes, originally prepared for the American Geographical Society, were carefully corrected and wherever feasible completed by the most recent data obtainable from the officials in Mexico, the whole being arranged so as to give an extended descriptive account of the actual condition of Mexico in its various physical aspects. The articles on the silver question, on the problems of wages and labor, on tariff relations and on the Pan-American movement were expanded by the ideas and the supplementary facts which had been brought to his attention since their first publication. Where the expression of his opinion had given rise to controversies, Señor Romero carefully explained the grounds upon which objection was made to his statements, inserting also his replies and such confirmatory data as he could secure. Putting all these things together, Señor Romero was able to provide his publishers with material for a bulky volume which contains the most trustworthy available compendium of all sorts of information relating to modern Mexico.

The more strictly historical portion of this volume is based upon two articles which appeared originally in the *North American Review* in 1895 and 1897, and which in their revised form are entitled, "Genesis of Mexican Independence" and "Philosophy of Mexican Revolutions." Both papers have been considerably enlarged and to some extent rewritten; minor errors have been corrected, objections to theories or to statements of fact answered, and one or two important recent works on the most exciting period of Spanish American history drawn upon for additional data. All this fills a hundred large pages which contain a lucid account of the course of the vital events by which Mexico and her sister republics to the south won their independence from Spain, and of the subsequent events which showed the Mexican people the disadvantages of political controversies conducted by force of arms. Señor Romero's idea, however, in writing these papers was largely philosophical. His essays were intended to explain to the people of the United States that their southern neighbors are able to take care of themselves, and that they are not afflicted with an incurable desire for revolutionary turmoil and physical political disturbance. It is, therefore, from this point of view that any criticism of his arguments ought to be directed. Agreement with his main thesis is easy, to the extent that it is beyond question a great deal nearer the truth than is the current conception of the Spanish American peoples derived from Mr. R. H. Davis and other newspaper reporters or casual visitors. As for the facts stated by Señor Romero, detailed criticism is of little value in the existing condition of knowledge respecting the history of Spanish America during the first half of the nineteenth century. The events of these years have been narrated by many writers, and the prosperous governments of the southern republics have recognized their obligations to their liberators by publishing voluminous series of documents connected with every phase of the struggle for independence. There can be no doubt that the facts of this period will some day be made intelligible. It is quite as true that

no satisfying exposition of the significance of these events has yet been given. The Spanish American appreciates to a remarkable extent the curious but indubitable fact that the important thing for the world to know is never what actually happened in the historical past, but is rather the thing which is said to have happened. Inasmuch as something must have happened, it becomes necessary, from this point of view, not to find out what that thing was, but for historical writers to agree upon what it may fairly be supposed to have been. Being essentially logical by birth and breeding, the Spanish American historians are able to assume the truth of the accepted narrative of the course of events during the revolutionary period. It is quite beside the question to ask whether such were really the facts and the motives which governed the succession of events and the development of character among the leaders in the struggle. Such it is agreed that they were, and as such they must be accepted until a more searching and less logical study of the character of individuals and the nature of events has been made. There are, indeed, difficulties in the existing situation, as Señor Romero might have thought had he noticed the cases—comparatively rare in his revised work—where he has occasion to make diametrically opposed statements of fact within a few paragraphs of each other. But each statement is derived from authoritative printed works, and each admirably illustrates the point which ought to be brought out in its particular connection.

Señor Romero has given English readers a very useful summary of the accepted facts of a most interesting period of Mexican history, and he has expounded certain important conclusions which, whether they follow from the facts or not, unquestionably are based upon an intimate and accurate knowledge of the Spanish American character, frankly recognizing its weaknesses and its misunderstood strength.

G. P. W.

Modern Political Institutions. By SIMEON E. BALDWIN, LL.D.
(Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1898. Pp. 378.)

THIS volume consists of a brief introduction and twelve essays mostly based upon addresses given before the American Bar Association, the American Social Science Association and bar associations of different states. All deal with political and legal institutions, especially those of the United States, laying emphasis upon their development and social significance.

Four of them are particularly legal in substance and suggest reforms that may be brought about either by legislation or by an improvement in our methods of legal procedure. The essay on "The Exemption of the Accused from Examination in Criminal Proceedings" expresses the opinion that it would further the ends of justice, if we were to adopt in part the Continental system in the preliminary examination of criminals and have the committing magistrate secure a statement from the accused which might be used in the trial.